

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

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No. 387

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STANDARDS DISCUSSION TO FEATURE CONVENTION

Discussion of standards under the McNary-Mapes law, with the cutting of samples in order that representatives of the Government and canners may have full opportunity to exchange ideas on grades and on appropriate tests to be incorporated in the standards provided for in the new labeling law, will be an outstanding feature of every section program, except that of the Meat Section, during the annual convention at Chicago.

A representative of the Food and Drug Administration will address the general meeting on Monday afternoon and each meeting, and the Chairman of the respective sections are arranging to have an ample supply of samples to be cut at the close of the address by the Government representative.

A comparatively small number of canners were able to be present at the public hearings held at the Department of Agriculture on December 15, although there were representatives present from the various branches of the industry in all parts of the country. The section meetings will therefore afford an opportunity for all canners present at the convention to hear a direct statement from the Government representatives and to participate in the discussion, not only of the law itself but of the standards that are contemplated.

CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS

ROOM RESERVATIONS—Reservations for all rooms at the Stevens Hotel for convention week will start on Sunday, January 18, unless otherwise arranged, and will be on a minimum four-day basis. Members who expect to arrive before January 18 should advise the hotel in advance in order to assure that they will have accommodations. No reservations for convention week can start later than Monday. Persons desiring reservations and arriving later than Monday will be charged for the room on that date, whether occupied or not.

RAILROAD RATES—A letter will soon be sent to each member of the Association with respect to the special railroad rates

for the convention, and the return limits on round-trip tickets. A certificate for use in purchasing reduced fare tickets also will be sent to each member. If more certificates are desired, members should communicate with the Association at once.

CONVENTION DIRECTORY—To facilitate the preparation of the hotel directory that will be printed by the Stevens Hotel, and to insure that the directory lists the members in the way they desire, it is requested that immediate attention be given to the letter on this subject sent by the Association to all of its members.

PROGRAM—The program of the convention will be mailed out to all members of the Association the first week in January. It is suggested that each member make a careful study of the program and arrange his engagements during convention week so that he will be able to take advantage of the greatest number of addresses and meetings that will be of interest and profit to him.

REGULATION OF FLOATING CANNERIES PROPOSED

Under the provisions of a bill (H. R. 13534) introduced by Representative Welch, of California, it would be unlawful to operate any cannery anywhere within the jurisdiction of the United States in Alaska unless a report shall have been filed with the Secretary of Commerce not later than December 1 of the preceding calendar year, stating the place or location of operation, and no cannery would be permitted to operate in more than one place or location in any calendar year.

The purpose of the bill is to control the operations of floating canneries in Alaska, which have been able to move about from place to place during the canning season and have made it difficult to regulate the catch of salmon without imposing severe hardships on canneries which are permanently located in those places.

STATISTICS FROM DECEMBER CROP REPORT

In last week's Information Letter statistics were given of canning crops production in 1930. Figures on other crops of interest to canners, summarized from the government December crop report, are presented in the following table.

The truck crops for which statistics are shown, it will be noted, include in some instances the crop grown for manufacture. The total value of truck crops grown for market, except potatoes, was \$242,826,000 in 1930, as compared with \$273,878,000 in 1929. The value of these crops grown for manufacture was \$66,375,000 in 1930, as compared with \$60,807,000 in 1929. The value of truck crops for which separate figures are not given

in the following table was \$9,484,000 in 1930, against \$9,023,000 in 1929.

		1929	Farm	1930	Farm
		Production	price	Production	price
		unit	unit	unit	unit
Beans, dry edible	bushels	20,707,000	\$3.78	22,137,000	\$2.40
Sweet potatoes	bushels	84,521,000	.944	71,154,000	.906
Apples, total	bushels	142,788,000	1.317	163,543,000	.933
Apples, commercial	barrels	29,004,000	3.74	33,723,000	2.68
Peaches	bushels	45,780,000	1.357	53,280,000	.903
Pears	bushels	22,063,000	1.432	25,703,000	.763
Cherries (ten states)	tons	84,930	164.17	108,100	130.00
Plums and prunes, fresh, (four states)	tons	116,300	46.10	143,750	29.00
Cranberries	barrels	546,500	13.09	570,500	10.15
Asparagus*	crates	9,766,000	1.63	10,403,000	1.51
Beans, snap*	tons	188,000	99.27	188,500	93.28
Cabbage*	tons	1,116,300	18.76	1,035,500	18.93
Cantaloupes	crates	10,982,000	1.31	15,391,000	1.21
Carrots	bushels	10,957,000	.61	10,904,000	.60
Cauliflower	crates	6,500,000	.80	5,595,000	.83
Celery	crates	8,872,000	1.00	10,043,000	1.48
Corn, sweet (canning)	tons	704,400	13.14	661,700	13.25
Cucumbers*	bushels	8,639,000	1.34	11,740,000	.90
Eggplant	bushels	713,000	1.24	857,000	.85
Lettuce	crates	20,180,000	1.82	19,849,000	1.70
Onions	bushels	25,470,000	.74	26,124,000	.60
Peas, green*	tons	300,000	73.80	347,400	67.45
Peppers	bushels	4,160,000	1.13	4,381,000	.99
Potatoes, early	bushels	34,605,000	1.28	42,659,000	1.12
Spinach*	tons	226,400	38.03	138,000	50.17
Strawberries*	quarts	327,975,000	1.33	229,336,000	1.08
Tomatoes*	tons	1,890,000	27.90	2,132,400	24.84
Watermelons	thousands	69,579	175.00	74,751	117.00

* Includes production used for canning or manufacture.

COMPLAINT FILED ON PIMIENTO RATES

A complaint has been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission against the application of the canned pimiento rate on shipments of canned pimientos from Woodbury, Ga., to Houston, Dallas and Waco, Tex., which is claimed to be unjust and unreasonable to the extent it exceeds the canned vegetable rates, the pimiento rate being a spice rate, while pimientos are classed as vegetables.

TARIFF COMMISSION INVESTIGATIONS

The U. S. Senate has adopted a resolution introduced by Senator Shortridge, requesting an investigation of the entries of fish and other marine products into the United States from the high seas in vessels owned, chartered, leased, or rented, whole or in part, by aliens. It has likewise adopted a resolution, introduced by Senator Gillette, directing the Commission to investigate the cost of production of cocoa and chocolate, and approved a resolution rescinding its earlier resolution directing an investigation of the cost of production of cigarette books, cigarette book covers and cigarette papers.

TOMATO PRODUCTS IMPORTS

Canned tomato imports in November were slightly lower than in October and less than one-third the amount imported in November last year. Paste imports were slightly higher than in October and less than half the amount received last November. The following table, compiled from a report issued by the Department of Commerce, gives the figures for the first eleven months of 1929 and 1930:

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
1929				
January	11,584,855	\$601,913	858,689	\$117,002
February	10,070,274	605,850	831,929	116,933
March	8,932,128	525,138	775,906	112,261
April	7,314,400	448,300	806,977	136,149
May	10,002,992	579,655	431,038	57,783
June	9,567,189	567,610	648,921	95,820
July	5,107,259	293,490	518,560	73,760
August	1,401,198	73,088	448,586	49,624
September	24,614,689	1,200,555	1,248,353	141,156
October	43,882,515	2,080,052	2,318,602	239,061
November	30,176,965	1,366,583	2,895,601	264,119
	162,744,473	\$8,441,224	11,843,312	\$1,403,758
1930				
January	8,939,178	\$427,845	1,635,369	\$129,824
February	5,834,313	283,425	1,050,583	88,842
March	2,902,848	139,808	658,934	53,743
April	5,425,074	291,292	932,968	83,260
May	6,453,591	308,250	2,368,368	246,690
June	648,681	25,063	456,605	43,731
July	320,151	23,163	310,481	27,343
August	125,402	4,550	570,633	56,211
September	2,047,904	90,698	1,377,458	127,151
October	9,688,351	309,067	1,004,042	82,546
November	9,586,907	376,803	1,233,962	76,382
	51,078,400	\$2,370,573	11,000,003	\$1,015,672

TRUCK CROP MARKETS

Frosts in the southern trucking areas did further damage during the week ended December 23, according to the U. S. Market News Service. As a result of recent cold weather in Florida, shipments of beans have been reduced very sharply, movement from that state being only 50 cars, compared with 300 a year ago.

Output of citrus fruits in Florida, Texas and California decreased greatly, since the holiday trade requirements were satisfied. Orange movement was down to a total of 1,285 cars for the week, and tangerines from Florida required only 140 cars, with grapefruit shipments totaling 375, mostly from Florida and Texas. Mixed-citrus movement still amounted to 910 cars.

First shipments of strawberries in carloads left Florida points, but movement of 5 cars compared with 50 a year ago.

Spinach was increasing from Texas, and about 430 cars of spinach moved last week.

Tomato imports from Cuba increased sharply to around 200 carloads. The Bahamas sent 17 carloads of tomatoes, but imports from Mexico decreased to 38. Florida shipments of tomatoes increased to 120 cars, mostly from the East Coast, and Texas sent 20 to market.

Cauliflower shipments, chiefly from California and Oregon, totaled 255 cars.

Imperial Valley originated only 18 cars of green peas, but Mexican imports increased to 37 cars.

Total forwardings of apples dropped further to 1,520 cars, only 500 of these coming from the East. Washington decreased to 775 and New York State to 290 cars.

Florida originated 54 cars of cabbage, and southern Texas 72 cars last week, or twice the movement of a year ago. Old-stock shipments dropped to 485 cars, 310 from New York.

Total forwardings of 26 important fruits and vegetables decreased one-fifth to 12,710 cars, but were slightly greater than during the same week last season.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Dec. 14-20 1930	Dec. 7-13 1930	Dec. 15-21 1929	Total this season to Dec. 20	Total last season to Dec. 21	Total last season
Apples, total . . .	1,519	2,012	1,134	79,298	77,213	102,801
Eastern states . .	500	645	434	32,418	40,873	51,439
Western states . .	1,019	1,367	700	46,880	36,340	51,362
Carrots:						
1931 season . . .	146	206	144	1,732	1,506	10,900
1930 season . . .	54	74	53	10,966	10,998	12,149
Cauliflower	253	234	343	4,164	3,093	9,535
Cabbage:						
1931 season . . .	120	68	60	224	118	33,281
1930 season . . .	484	773	421	33,281	39,782	44,244
Green peas:						
Domestic	18	53	70	924	406	6,783
Imports	37	18	140	58	104	2,118
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	538	584	493	30,232	32,002	32,430
Imports	3	3	7	25	29	343
Pears	123	117	55	27,380	19,978	21,147
Peppers:						
Domestic	97	61	42	447	111	2,785
Imports	3	8	18	12	49	477
Spinach	430	364	327	1,660	1,720	9,630
String beans	48	97	302	1,512	1,100	9,532
Tomatoes:						
1931 season . . .	118	62	20	405	38	33,437
Imports	253	211	162	593	434	6,049
1930 season . . .	25	52	12	33,437	32,191	32,202

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

For the week ended December 20 bank debits outside New York City were larger than they have been in the past five weeks, but were smaller than for the corresponding week in 1929. Interest rates for both call and time money showed increases over the preceding week. Business failures as reported by R. G. Dun and Co. numbered 604 as compared with 498 for the week of December 21, 1929.

Wholesale prices of 120 commodities were only fractionally lower than the previous week, due mainly to lower prices paid for agricultural products.

In its summary of general business and financial conditions based upon statistics for the months of November and December, the Federal Reserve Board states that the volume of industrial production and factory employment decreased further in November and wholesale commodity prices continued to decline. Distribution of commodities by department stores increased less than is usual for November.

Industrial production declined about 4 per cent in November, according to the Board's seasonally adjusted index. Factory employment and payrolls showed decreases in November, reflecting in part changes of a seasonal character.

Value of contracts awarded for residential building and for public works and utilities, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, declined in November and contracts for commercial and industrial building continued at the low levels of other recent months. In the first two weeks of December the daily average of total contracts awarded was somewhat smaller than in November.

Freight car loadings decreased further in November by more than the ordinary seasonal amount. Expansion of department store sales from October was smaller than usual, following a growth in October that was larger than usual.

The general level of wholesale commodity prices declined further in November and there were additional price declines in the first half of December, when several commodities, including silver and cotton, reached new low levels. From the end of October to the middle of December there were substantial decreases in prices of many other commodities, including corn, hogs, pork, hides, tin, and coffee, while prices of copper and rubber fluctuated widely, declining at the end of the period.

Loans and investments of reporting member banks in leading cities declined by about \$250,000,000 during the three-week

period ending December 10, reflecting a further reduction of \$69,000,000 in loans on securities, and a decline of \$196,000,000 in all other loans, offset in part by a further small increase in investments. There was also a decline in time deposits, reflecting in large part withdrawal of Christmas funds.

During November and the first two weeks of December money rates continued fairly steady at extremely low levels, with price commercial paper at a range of $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 per cent, and bankers' acceptances at $1\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. In the third week of December there was a slight increase in rates for call and time loans on the New York Stock Exchange. The yields on high-grade bonds increased during the latter part of the period.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended December 13.....	744,443	262,186	219,004	263,253
Preceding week	787,173	269,805	223,072	264,296
Corresponding week, 1929.....	922,861	322,103	245,043	355,715
Corresponding week, 1928.....	963,608	346,904	251,925	364,740

PHYSICAL CULTURE LAUDS CANNED FOOD

An article of interest to every canner appears in the January issue of "*Physical Culture*" under the title "Canned Foods; Science Battles Age-Old Prejudice Against Preserved Products." The author, Milo Hastings, pays his respects to certain so-called health restaurants which have built up their business on the claim that no canned foods are served, thus catering to the old prejudice against canned foods. He then recites the developments in the canning industry, points out the scientific work that has established the facts about the nutritive value of canned foods, and closes his article as follows:

"Grandmother may protest, as grandmothers always have protested, against the new ways of life in the kitchen and out of it.

"But progress must have its way, and, as Mark Twain sagely remarked, 'the path of civilization is strewn with tin cans.' Critics call this the age of canned foods and canned music, but the modern city apartment has room for neither an old-fashioned square piano nor an apple barrel, nor has the modern woman sufficient room in that fourth dimension called time to pare the apples. She has many competing demands upon both her space and her time.

"If the economy of kitchen labor time saved by use of canned foods enables the mother to get out into the sunshine with her children, that radiant source of vitality might easily restock the family supply of vitamins. But since science finds that the vita-

mins are also canned, the critics of modern life must seek for other new things to condemn."

BEAN DISEASES IN WESTERN STATES

A report on bean diseases in the western United States in 1930 is the chief feature of the December 15th issue of the Plant Disease Reporter, published in mimeograph form by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The report covers a survey of conditions in Colorado, Utah, Montana, Idaho and California. The conditions are summarized in the report as follows:

The bacterial blights were not found in California, a trace in five fields in Idaho, sparingly in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming, and slightly more abundant in Montana.

Anthraxnose was not observed in any of the commercial acreages in the states visited. A trace was noted in the trial plots at Greeley, Colo., where eastern grown seed infected with the disease was planted.

Mosaic was again widespread, as it was in 1929. It was very prevalent in southern Idaho, slightly less in Colorado and Utah, and still less in Montana, Wyoming and California.

Curly top of beans was widespread and destructive in certain sections of southern Idaho. The amount of the disease could be correlated with the dispersal of the beet leafhopper. In all of the other states it was of no consequence.

The root rots were found in small amounts in all the states surveyed causing little damage.

Powdery mildew was seen only in California, where it caused very little damage. In one instance it caused a premature maturation of the plants.

Rust was found in Colorado and Southern California, but was of minor importance. In Colorado a trace of infection was observed after August 15, but no damage resulted.

Nematode injury was observed in Los Angeles County, California, causing a decided reduction in stand in a number of plantings.

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